

REMARKS

The pending application was filed on February 9, 2004 with claims 1-20. The Examiner issued a Non-Final Office Action dated July 25, 2005 rejecting claims 1-7 and indicating that claims 8-20 had been withdrawn. In particular, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,976,444 to *Richards* and rejected claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,975,844 to *Milazar*. A response was filed November 23, 2005. The Examiner issued a communication on February 10, 2006 stating that the response was incomplete. A response was filed. Another communication was issued dated May 15, 2006. A telephonic interview was conducted June 15, 2006.

Claims 1-7 are pending in the patent application, and claims 8-20 have been withdrawn. Claims 2 and 5 have been previously canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 have been previously amended. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 remain pending in the application. In view of the arguments set forth below, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 are allowable, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance.

I. SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

The Examiner and undersigned representative conducted a telephonic interview on June 15, 2006 and discussed the Communication dated May 15, 2006. The Examiner and the undersigned representative determined that figures 6-8 should have hatching to indicate a cross-sectional view. No agreement regarding the claims was reached.

II. RESPONSE TO DETAILED ACTION

The Examiner indicated that the response on November 25, 2005 was not responsive to the Office Action because the Examiner stated that the amendment introduces non-elected claim language. The Examiner and undersigned representative determined that the Figures show the correct structure claimed; however, Figures 6-8 lacked the proper hatching indicating a cross-sectional view that lead to a misunderstanding by the Examiner. Claims 6-8 have been amended and such amendments are supported by the specification. The undersigned representative believes that the response is now fully responsive.

III. PETITION FOR ONE MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

This is a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge the fee in the amount of \$120.00 for a one (1) month extension of time pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(1) and charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0951. A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed.

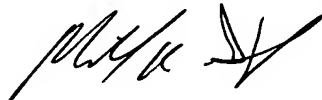
CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons given above, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 define patentable subject matter and are thus allowable. The undersigned representative thanks the Examiner for examining this application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

No fees, in addition to the extension of time, are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,



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